



Nov. 4, 2011

This Week:

- 64-car Kennewick joins state fleet early
- Construction to start on new 144-car ferry
- WSF tour with Senator King
- Vehicle reservation system partnership meeting
- Colman dock slip 3 overhead loading construction update
- Update: Colman dock sidewalk closure
- Customer compliment

64-car Kennewick joins state fleet early

The WSF fleet gained a new ferry on Monday! Vigor Industrial delivered the third of three new Washington state ferries, the 64-car Kennewick, three months ahead of schedule and under budget. This is a major milestone in our vessel replacement program. The Kwa-di Tabil class is now complete. The Kennewick is presently at WSF's Eagle Harbor Maintenance Facility for final outfitting until mid-November, when the Kennewick will move to a commercial shipyard for installation of additional rub rails on the sides of the vessel. WSF plans to place the Kennewick into service in mid-January on the Port Townsend/Coupeville route. For more information, visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/Ferries/64CarFerries/.

Construction to start on new 144-car ferry

I am happy to report that construction will begin early next year on a new 144-car ferry. On Tuesday, WSF signed a contract change order with Vigor Industrial to begin construction (photos available at www.flickr.com/photos/wsdot/sets/72157627905126905/). Work on this first vessel will create an estimated 200 family-wage jobs at Vigor and 350 jobs at subcontractors, vendors and other shipyards in the region. The new ferry is scheduled to take about 27 months to complete. Cost of construction is \$115 million and the total cost of the vessel is \$147 million, which includes owner-furnished equipment, construction management and contingencies. The design of the ferry is based on the 130-car Issaquah class, which has proven to be the most versatile vessel in the state fleet. In addition to replacing one of the oldest vessels in the system, the benefits of the new 144-car ferry include increased passenger comfort, improved safety systems, better access for customers with disabilities and reduced operating costs. Unfortunately, there are not sufficient funds available to build the additional two 144-car ferries that are needed to replace the last two vessels in the Evergreen State Class. We will continue to work on obtaining those additional funds as part of the governor's Connecting Washington Task Force. For more information on the new vessel program visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/ferries/144carferries.

WSF tour with Senator King

On Wednesday, I had the privilege of accompanying Sen. Curtis King of the 14th district on a tour of WSF. I was joined by Deputy Chief George Capacci and other WSF staff as we spent time at Colman Dock, the Bainbridge Island Ferry Terminal, the Eagle Harbor Maintenance Facility, the Kingston Ferry Terminal, the Edmonds Ferry Terminal and aboard the Wenatchee and Puyallup. I appreciated the time that everyone spent with Sen. King to review WSF operations and facilities. For photos of the tour, visit www.flickr.com/photos/wsdot/sets/72157628051480038.

Vehicle reservations system partnership meeting

I met with the Port Townsend/Coupeville Partnership on Thursday evening to provide a status update on vehicle reservations and to get initial feedback on proposed improvements. I really appreciate the commitment of the partnership members and I greatly value their feedback. For handouts from this meeting and more information on planning for vehicle reservations, visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/Ferries/Planning/VehicleReservations.htm.

Colman Dock slip 3 overhead loading construction update

Last week, I mentioned that Slip 3 at Colman Dock would be closed temporarily so crews can replace the decking on the overhead loading structure. You can view current construction photos at www.flickr.com/photos/wsdot/sets/72157628036976180.

Update: Colman dock sidewalk closure

The pedestrian sidewalk on the west side of Alaskan Way, between Columbia and Yesler streets, will be closed starting Monday, Nov. 7. It will remain closed until the end of November for electrical work. Please use the walkway on the east side of the street. For more information on the planned improvements, visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/sr519/seattleelectrical/.

Customer compliment

We received many compliments about WSF employees during the last couple of months and I would like to share two of my favorites. These examples demonstrate exemplary customer service. Many thanks to Friday Harbor Terminal employee Anne Gutierrez for going above and beyond to assist a customer and my gratitude to the crew of the Hiyu for their great attitude during what can be a stressful time.

Received Sept. 9:

My 8 year old son had cut himself on a barnacle while playing at the beach at Shaw Island. We got him fixed up at the Inter Island Clinic in Friday Harbor. Upon returning to Shaw, we realized we had a 3 plus hour wait. This is when we met Anne. I asked if the terminal had a loaner wheel chair. Anne said "no" and started thinking of a solution. Being an island native she knew the Convalescent Center would have a wheel chair to borrow. She went and got it on her own time and made a difficult evening much better. I was very impressed.

Received Oct. 26:

I know there have been numerous complaints lately, and justifiably, from San Juan Island residents re: the lack of ferries up here in the islands recently. I travel to Friday Harbor and back to Lopez 2-3 times weekly for work and yesterday (Oct 26) was an especially difficult day for the crew of the Hiyu, a sweet but tiny little ferry with not a lot of room. I want to be sure that all the crew members receive some positive feedback on how they have handled getting as many vehicles as possible on the this little boat. It's especially difficult on the interisland ferry because of the sanitation and other large trucks traveling between islands. The crew on the Hiyu yesterday did an amazing job, in good spirits and all working together, to maneuver vehicles at every stop and to make it as easy as possible for all the passengers. They are a great crew and deserve special thanks and commendations for their grace and efficiency under pressure. Please let them know that many of us islanders love them and deeply appreciate the way they do their best to take care of us and minimize the inconvenience of not having enough boats up here. Thank you.

Another way WSF tracks customer feedback is via Yelp. Visit WSF at www.yelp.com/biz/washington-state-ferries-seattle.

Next Week:

- Coordination meeting with WSDOT Alaskan Way Viaduct team
- Meeting with Tulalip regarding Mukilteo Terminal Project

David Moseley's weekly updates are available on the WSDOT Ferries Division website at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly.

To unsubscribe, reply to this message with "unsubscribe" in the subject of the e-mail.